2619/2620 Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express trains.

(b) and (c) Due to non-availability of adequate space for stacking of linen in the coach, it is not feasible to supply bed rolls.

Non-stop passenger trains between metropolitan cities

1208. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board is considering a proposal to introduce non-stop passenger trains between different metropolitan cities of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The suggestion was made by one of the Sub Groups of the Consultative Committee of MPs for conversion, of one train each between the four Metropolitan Cities into non-stop trains.

Stoppage of 2305/2306 Train At Asausal

1209. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering for stoppage of 2305/2306 train at Asansol for which there is a consisting demand;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Railways in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) to (c) The demands for stoppage of 2305/2306 Rajdhani Express at Asansol were examined in detail but presently not found feasible for implementation due to operational exigencies.

Non supply of free bed-rolls in Horah Delhi Rajdhani Express

1210. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the passengers are facing a great hardship due to non-supply of bed-rolls to A.C. 3 Tier passengers in Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express :

(b) whether any complaints are being received by the Ministry from various concerns; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Railways in this regard and from when free bed-rolls would be supplied to the passengers of A.C. 3 Tier ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LEANKA): (a) to (c) Some suggestions in this rgard have been received. Due to non-availability of adequate space for stacking of linen in the coach, it is not feasible to supply bed rolls

Late running of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express

1211. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express is running late now a days :

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to maintain its punctuality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) There have been frequent cases of late running in the recent past.

(b) Accidents, public agitatoins, engine failures, signal failures, alarm chain pulling, etc.

(c) Intensive chasing and regular monitoring on day to day basis is being done to improve the punctuality of this train.

Decline in passenger growth

1212. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of RAILAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger traffic growth has gone down; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Passengr traffic has gone down in 1992-93 as compared to 1991-92.

(b) Statistical data is maintained for each financial year ending 31st March. The details of Passengers Originating on Indian Railways for the last three years i.e. 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as under :—

Year	No. of Passengers Originating (In millions)
1990-91	3,858
1991-92	4,049
1992-93	3,749

Reduction in passenger trains

1213. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has changed its priorities and decided to reduce passenger trains from the year 1994-95;

(b) If so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Running of Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Jalandhar

1214. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to start Delhi-Jalandhar-Delhi Shatabdi Express; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to start; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational constraints and lack of resources.

Extension of working hours of Enquiry Counter at Aurangabad

1215. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request(s) from Member (s) of Parliament has been received with regard to the extension of working hours of the Enquiry Counter at Aurangabad (Maharashtra from the present timing 10 am to 5 pm upto 8 pm when the Jalna-Bombay Express leaves Aurangabad to facilitate the public to obtain information about the arrival/departure of trains :

(b) whether any proposal for additional staff to keep the Enquiry counter open till late hours has been received from the Aurangabad Railway authorities ; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. The Enquiry Counter at Aurangabad Railway Station is already functioning round-the-clock manned by Reservation Staff during day time and Ticket Collectors during night time.

Enquiry Committee report on the accident of Sahyadri Express and a bus in Puna

1216. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in December, 1993, a speeding Bombay bound Sahyadri Express hit a bus at an unmanned railway crossing resulting in the death of a large number of school children ;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the mishap ;

(c) what is the number of unmanned level crossings in various sections of the railways;

(d) how many unmanned level crossings are manned annually as against the target ;

(e) what are the reasons for the shortfall in the manned level crossings as against the annual target ; and